

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 H-02 NSC-05 OMB-01 OES-06 EB-07 COME-00

INT-05 CG-00 DOTE-00 DLOS-06 SAL-01 /106 W

----- 107610

R 121217Z JUL 76

FM AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7627

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISTANBUL 2587

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS PFOR PLOS TU GR

SUBJECT MTA SISMII I COMPLETES FIRST SEA TRIAL

REF: (A) ISTANBUL 2519 (B) ANKARA 5277 (C) ANKARA 5259

1. AFTER SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING DOCKSIDE CHECKS,
GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH VESSEL MTA SISMII I
BEGAN SEA TRIALS FOR TESTING OF ENGINES AND EQUIPMENT ON
JULY 10 IN SEA OF MARMARA. ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS
JULY 11, SHIP'S TECHNICAL PERSONNEL PLEASED WITH
OUTCOME OF FIRST DAY SEA TRIALS AND BELIEVE VESSEL WILL BE
READY TO CARRY OUT ACTUAL OPERATIONS SHORTLY.

2. COMMENT: IN CONVERSATION WITH CONGENOFF TURKISH REPRESENTATIVE
OF SWEDISH FIRM UNDER CONTRACT TO ASSIST IN CONVERSION OF VESSEL
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REPORTED FIRST DAY TRIAL VERY SUCCESSFUL. HE INDICATED ONE

ADDITIONAL TRIAL SCHEDULED JULY 13 AND THAT WE SHOULD LOOK FOR "BIG STORY" IN MILLIYET JULY 14. ALTHOUGH HE WOULD NOT ELABORATE, WE TAKE THIS AS INDICATION SHIP MAY BE PREPARED TO DEPART FOR AEGEAN JULY 15 AS PREVIOUSLY PLANNED.

3. FYI: ALTHOUGH VESSEL UNDOUBTEDLY HAS BEEN WELL EQUIPPED, MTA SISMİK I GIVES IMPRESSION OF BEING APPROXIMATELY SIZE OF SMALL MINESWEEPER, AND SMALLER THAN ONE WOULD EXPECT FROM PUBLICITY. SHIP HAS BEEN MOORED AT ISTINYE DOCK IN PUBLIC VIEW UNDER LIGHT POLICE GUARDS AND NO ATTEMPT HAS BEEN MADE TO WARN OFF CURIOUS ONLOOKERS PASSING IN SMALL BOATS. BATJER

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